

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**IN THE MATTER OF THE SEARCH OF:**  
3431 Red Cedar Ct, Grove City, OH 43123  
**UNDER RULE 41**

SW No. 2:23-mj-371

**AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF AN APPLICATION UNDER RULE 41**  
**FOR A WARRANT TO SEARCH AND SEIZE**

I, Andrew J. Gafford, being first duly sworn, hereby depose and state as follows:

**INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND**

1. I make this affidavit in support of an application under Rule 41 of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure for a warrant to search the premises known as 3431 Red Cedar Ct, Grove City, OH 43123, hereinafter “PREMISES,” further described in Attachment A, for the things described in Attachment B.

2. I have been a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) since February 2011 and am currently assigned to the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTF) in the FBI Cincinnati Division, Columbus Resident Agency. I have spent most of my FBI career investigating, managing, and supporting international and domestic terrorism investigations which often involve violations of Title 18 of the United States Code. I have assisted in the preparation of numerous search warrant applications, conducted or participated in physical and electronic surveillance, assisted in the execution of search warrants, debriefed informants and reviewed other pertinent records. Currently, I am tasked with investigating criminal activity in and around the Capitol grounds on January 6, 2021. As a Special Agent, I am authorized by law or by a government agency to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or

prosecution of a violation of Federal criminal laws, and as a law enforcement officer I am authorized to execute warrants issued under the authority of the United States.

3. The facts in this affidavit come from my personal observations, my training and experience, and information obtained from other agents, witnesses, and agencies. This affidavit is intended to show merely that there is sufficient probable cause for the requested warrant. It does not set forth all of my knowledge, or the knowledge of others, about this matter.

4. Based on my training and experience and the facts as set forth in this affidavit, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that violations of 18 U.S.C. § 1512(c)(2) (obstruction of Congress); 1752(a)(1) and (2) (unlawfully entering or remaining and disruptive or disorderly conduct in a restricted buildings or grounds); and 40 U.S.C. § 5104(e)(2) (violent entry, disorderly conduct, and other offenses on Capitol grounds) (the “Target Offenses”) that have been committed by Dustin Martin (“MARTIN”) and other identified and unidentified persons, including others who may have been aided and abetted by, or conspiring with, the Subject, as well as others observed by the Subject. There is also probable cause to search the PREMISES, further described in Attachment A, for the things described in Attachment B.

#### **PROBABLE CAUSE**

##### ***Background – The U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021***

5. U.S. Capitol Police (USCP), the FBI, and assisting law enforcement agencies are investigating a riot and related offenses that occurred at the United States Capitol Building, located at 1 First Street, NW, Washington, D.C., 20510 at latitude 38.88997 and longitude -77.00906 on January 6, 2021.

6. At the U.S. Capitol, the building itself has 540 rooms covering 175,170 square feet of ground, roughly four acres. The building is 751 feet long (roughly 228 meters) from north to south and 350 feet wide (106 meters) at its widest point. The U.S. Capitol Visitor Center is 580,000 square feet and is located underground on the east side of the Capitol. On the west side of the Capitol building is the West Front, which includes the inaugural stage scaffolding, a variety of open concrete spaces, a fountain surrounded by a walkway, two broad staircases, and multiple terraces at each floor. On the East Front are three staircases, porticos on both the House and Senate side, and two large skylights into the Visitor's Center surrounded by a concrete parkway. All of this area was barricaded and off limits to the public on January 6, 2021.

7. The U.S. Capitol is secured 24 hours a day by USCP. Restrictions around the U.S. Capitol include permanent and temporary security barriers and posts manned by USCP. Only authorized people with appropriate identification are allowed access inside the U.S. Capitol.

8. On January 6, 2021, the exterior plaza of the U.S. Capitol was closed to members of the public.

9. On January 6, 2021, a joint session of the United States Congress convened at the U.S. Capitol. During the joint session, elected members of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate were meeting in separate chambers of the U.S. Capitol to certify the vote count of the Electoral College of the 2020 Presidential Election, which took place on November 3, 2020 ("Certification"). The joint session began at approximately 1:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST). Shortly thereafter, by approximately 1:30 p.m. EST,

the House and Senate adjourned to separate chambers to resolve a particular objection. Vice President Mike Pence was present and presiding, first in the joint session, and then in the Senate chamber.

10. As the proceedings continued in both the House and the Senate, and with Vice President Mike Pence present and presiding over the Senate, a large crowd gathered outside the U.S. Capitol. As noted above, temporary and permanent barricades were in place around the exterior of the U.S. Capitol building, and USCP were present and attempting to keep the crowd away from the Capitol building and the proceedings underway inside.

11. At around 1:00 p.m. EST, known and unknown individuals broke through the police lines, toppled the outside barricades protecting the U.S. Capitol, and pushed past USCP and supporting law enforcement officers there to protect the U.S. Capitol.

12. At around 1:30 p.m. EST, USCP ordered Congressional staff to evacuate the House Cannon Office Building and the Library of Congress James Madison Memorial Building in part because of a suspicious package found nearby. Pipe bombs were later found near both the Democratic National Committee and Republican National Committee headquarters.

13. Media reporting showed a group of individuals outside of the Capitol chanting, “Hang Mike Pence.” I know from this investigation that some individuals believed that Vice President Pence possessed the ability to prevent the certification of the presidential election and that his failure to do so made him a traitor.

14. At approximately 2:00 p.m. EST, some people in the crowd forced their way through, up, and over the barricades and law enforcement. The crowd advanced to the exterior façade of the building. The crowd was not lawfully authorized to enter or remain in the building

and, prior to entering the building, no members of the crowd submitted to security screenings or weapons checks by U.S. Capitol Police Officers or other authorized security officials. At such time, the certification proceedings were still underway and the exterior doors and windows of the U.S. Capitol were locked or otherwise secured. Members of law enforcement attempted to maintain order and keep the crowd from entering the Capitol.

15. Shortly after 2:00 p.m. EST, individuals in the crowd forced entry into the U.S. Capitol, including by breaking windows and by assaulting members of law enforcement, as others in the crowd encouraged and assisted those acts. Publicly available video footage shows an unknown individual saying to a crowd outside the Capitol building, “We’re gonna fucking take this,” which your affiant believes was a reference to “taking” the U.S. Capitol.



16. Shortly thereafter, at approximately 2:20 p.m. EST, members of the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate, including the President of the Senate, Vice President Mike Pence, were instructed to—and did—evacuate the chambers. That is, at or about this time, USCP ordered all nearby staff, Senators, and reporters into the Senate chamber and locked it down. USCP ordered a similar lockdown in the House chamber. As the subjects attempted to break into the House chamber, by breaking the windows on the chamber door, law enforcement were forced to draw their weapons to protect the victims sheltering inside.

17. At approximately 2:30 p.m. EST, known and unknown subjects broke windows and pushed past USCP and supporting law enforcement officers forcing their way into the U.S. Capitol on both the west side and the east side of the building. Once inside, the subjects broke windows and doors, destroyed property, stole property, and assaulted federal police officers. Many of the federal police officers were injured and several were admitted to the hospital. The subjects also confronted and terrorized members of Congress, Congressional staff, and the media. The subjects carried weapons including tire irons, sledgehammers, bear spray, and tasers. They also took police equipment from overrun police including shields and police batons. At least one of the subjects carried a handgun with an extended magazine. These actions by the unknown individuals resulted in the disruption and ultimate delay of the vote Certification.

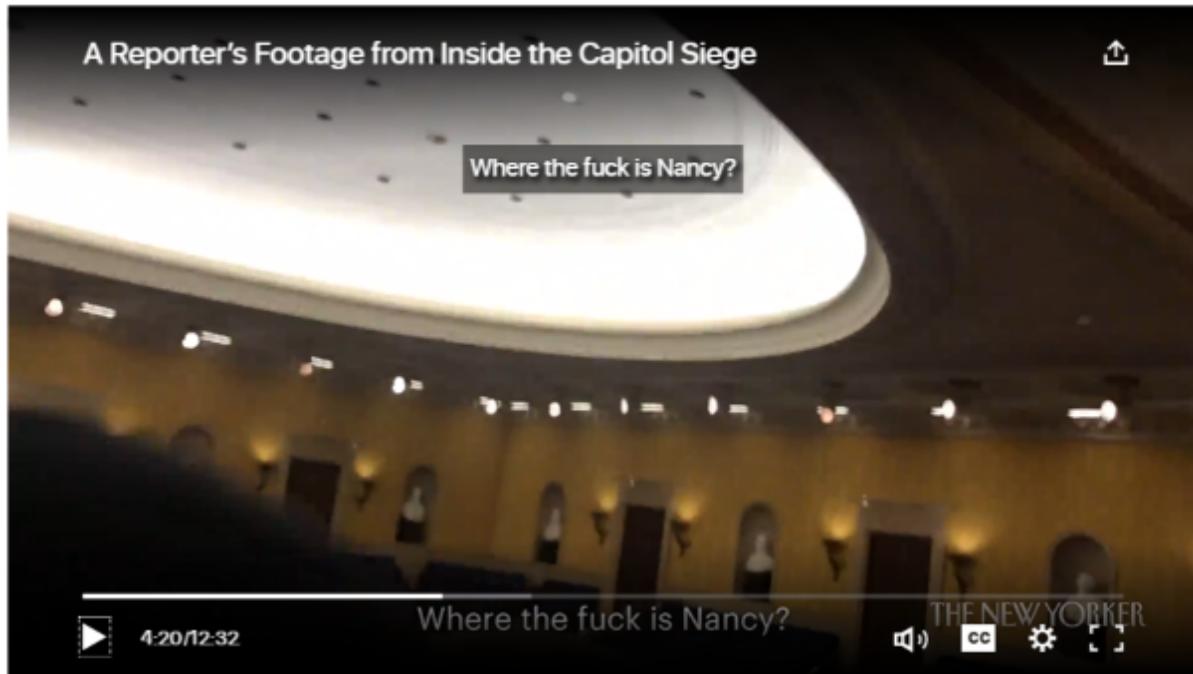
18. Also at approximately 2:30 p.m. EST, USCP ordered the evacuation of lawmakers, Vice President Mike Pence, and president pro tempore of the Senate, Charles Grassley, for their safety.

19. At around 2:45 p.m. EST, subjects broke into the office of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

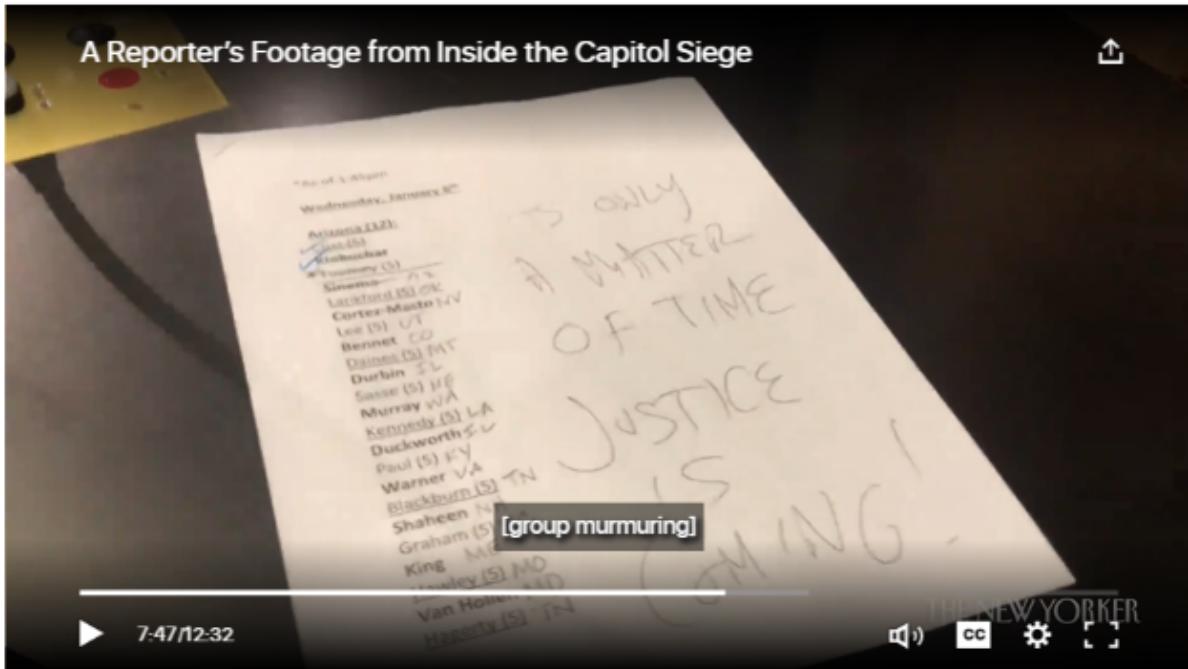
20. At around 2:47 p.m. EST, subjects broke into the United States Senate Chamber. Publicly available video shows an individual asking, “Where are they?” as they opened up the door to the Senate Chamber. Based upon the context, law enforcement believes that the word “they” is in reference to members of Congress.



21. After subjects forced entry into the Senate Chamber, publicly available video shows that an individual asked, “Where the fuck is Nancy?” Based upon other comments and the context, law enforcement believes that the “Nancy” being referenced was the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi.



22. One subject left a note on the podium on the floor of the Senate Chamber. This note, captured by the filming reporter, stated "A Matter of Time Justice is Coming."



23. During the time when the subjects were inside the Capitol building, multiple subjects were observed inside the U.S. Capitol wearing what appears to be, based upon my training and experience, tactical vests and carrying flex cuffs. Based upon my knowledge, training, and experience, I know that flex cuffs are a manner of restraint that are designed to be carried in situations where a large number of individuals are expected to be taken into custody.





24. At around 2:48 p.m. EST, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser announced a citywide curfew beginning at 6:00 p.m. EST.

25. At around 2:45 p.m. EST, one subject was shot and killed while attempting to break into the House chamber through the broken windows.

26. At about 3:25 p.m. EST, law enforcement officers cleared the Senate floor.

27. Between 3:25 and around 6:30 p.m. EST, law enforcement was able to clear the U.S. Capitol of all of the subjects.

28. Based on these events, all proceedings of the United States Congress, including the joint session, were effectively suspended until shortly after 8:00 p.m. EST the same day. In light of the dangerous circumstances caused by the unlawful entry to the U.S. Capitol, including

the danger posed by individuals who had entered the U.S. Capitol without any security screening or weapons check, Congressional proceedings could not resume until after every unauthorized occupant had left the U.S. Capitol, and the building had been confirmed secured. The proceedings resumed at approximately 8:00 pm after the building had been secured. Vice President Pence remained in the United States Capitol from the time he was evacuated from the Senate Chamber until the session resumed.

29. Beginning around 8:00 p.m. EST, the Senate resumed work on the Certification.
30. Beginning around 9:00 p.m. EST, the House resumed work on the Certification.
31. Both chambers of Congress met and worked on the Certification within the Capitol building until approximately 3:00 a.m. EST on January 7, 2021.
32. During national news coverage of the aforementioned events, video footage which appeared to be captured on mobile devices of persons present on the scene depicted evidence of violations of local and federal law, including scores of individuals inside the U.S. Capitol building without authority to be there.
33. Based on my training and experience, I know that it is common for individuals to carry and use their cell phones during large gatherings, such as the gathering that occurred in the area of the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Such phones are typically carried at such gatherings to allow individuals to capture photographs and video footage of the gatherings, to communicate with other individuals about the gatherings, to coordinate with other participants at the gatherings, and to post on social media and digital forums about the gatherings.
34. Many subjects seen on news footage in the area of the U.S. Capitol are using a cell phone in some capacity. It appears some subjects were recording the events occurring in and

around the U.S. Capitol and others appear to be taking photos, to include photos and video of themselves after breaking into the U.S. Capitol itself, including photos of themselves damaging and stealing property. As reported in the news media, others inside and immediately outside the U.S. Capitol live-streamed their activities, including those described above as well as statements about these activities.

35. Photos below, available on various publicly available news, social media, and other media show some of the subjects within the U.S. Capitol during the riot. In several of these photos, the individuals who broke into the U.S. Capitol can be seen holding and using cell phones, including to take pictures and/or videos:



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<sup>1</sup> <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2021/01/06/congresswoman-capitol-building-takeover-an-attempted-coup/>



<sup>2</sup>



<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.businessinsider.com/republicans-objecting-to-electoral-votes-in-congress-live-updates-2021-1>.

<sup>3</sup><https://www.thv11.com/article/news/arkansas-man-storms-capitol-pelosi/91-41abde60-a390-4a9e-b5f3-d80b0b96141e>

***Facts Specific to This Application – Martin’s Criminal Conduct***

36. On or about January 7, 2021, a concerned citizen (C-1) provided a tip to the FBI that contained a photo of an individual who C-1 identified as Dustin Martin (MARTIN), a biracial male from Ohio around 29 years of age. C-1 provided an image of what appears to be a Facebook post that seems to depict MARTIN inside the U.S. Capitol (Figure 1). The individual in the photo that C-1 identified as MARTIN has his face partially obscured by a neck gaiter with a Confederate flag symbol on it. The individual is also wearing a cap and a black sweatshirt with the words “We call it the Chinese virus because it comes from China” displayed in large white and red letters.

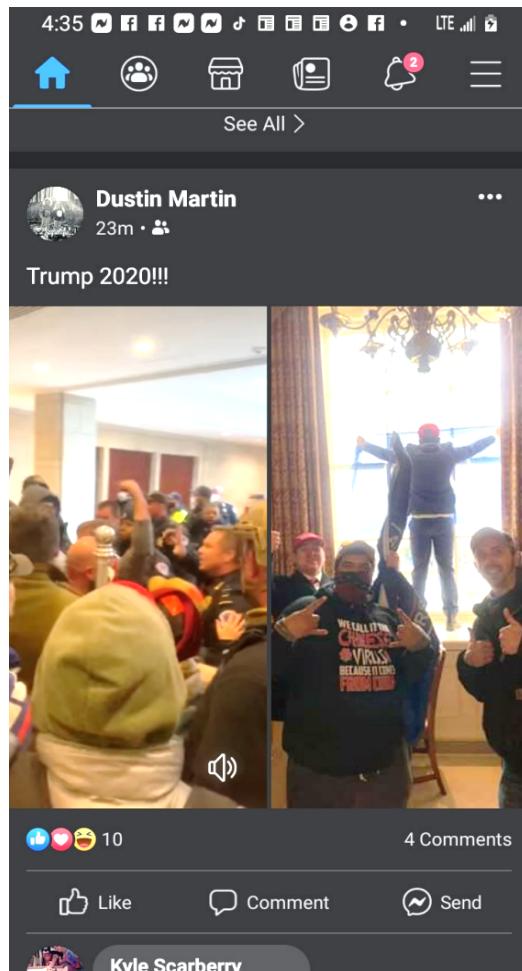


Figure 1

37. On or about January 17, 2021, a concerned citizen (C-2) provided a tip to the FBI that contained a Facebook post from MARTIN in which MARTIN writes, "So now I can say I've been hit with rubber bullets, bear mace, pepper spray, teargas, and wrestle with Capital Police fuck yeah 'America Bitches' I'll do it all over again too!" (Figure 2) C-2's tip further said that MARTIN is from Grove City, Ohio, and posted a video of himself inside the U.S. Capitol but deleted it.



Figure 2

38. On or about January 18, 2021, a concerned citizen (C-3) provided a tip to the FBI that one of C-3's Facebook friends was inside the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. C-3 provided a screen capture of the same Facebook post from MARTIN that C-2 provided the FBI (see again Figure 2). Later, during an interview with the FBI on March 25, 2022, C-3 advised that a couple of days after the riot, C-3 was no longer able to view MARTIN's Facebook profile because MARTIN either deleted it or restricted it.

39. As part of its investigation, on or about July 15, 2021, the FBI interviewed MARTIN. During the interview, MARTIN admitted that he made the Facebook post claiming that he fought with the Capitol Police but said that he only made the post to ingratiate himself with individuals who would admire him for such an action. MARTIN stated that he was caught in the middle between the rioters and Capitol Police and pushed back on the barricade to protect himself. MARTIN stated that the Capitol Police maced him and then he retreated, but that he did not assault any police officers and did not enter the U.S. Capitol. The FBI showed MARTIN the photo that C-1 provided the FBI in the tip that depicted MARTIN inside the U.S. Capitol, but MARTIN stated that he was not the individual depicted in the photo (see Figure 1 above).

40. In March 2022, the FBI identified several photos appearing to depict MARTIN (circled in yellow or red) both outside and inside the U.S. Capitol building on January 6, 2021 (see figures 3-6 below). MARTIN's face is unobscured in several of the photos and MARTIN is dressed in the same attire as the individual in the photo C-1 provided in the tip. Additionally, one of the FBI interviewing agents from the July 15, 2021, interview of MARTIN confirmed that the individual in the photos was the same individual who was interviewed by the FBI on July 15, 2021.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

41. The FBI also obtained BWC footage from a law enforcement officer at the Lower West Terrace in the vicinity of MARTIN at approximately 1:36 PM. The footage shows MARTIN (circled in red), in a large gathering of rioters who were standing on the opposite side of a metal barricade from a line of law enforcement officers. The officers attempt to push the crowd back using a metal bike rack barricade, and the rioters push against the barricade. MARTIN can be seen approaching the barricade and placing his hands and head against the front line of rioters in what appears to be an effort to aid the push. After a tussle, many of the rioters, including MARTIN, fall to the ground. MARTIN subsequently retreats away from the barricade.



Figure 7

42. Records obtained from a search warrant served on Meta Platforms Inc. (Facebook) indicate MARTIN is the subscriber of Facebook UID 100000670809521, Vanity Name: dustin.martin.1291, associated with e-mail address martindustin289@gmail.com.

43. In private messages to friends using Facebook's chat feature, MARTIN explained that he was traveling to D.C. on January 6<sup>th</sup> because of the Electoral College vote to certify the 2020 presidential election. In addition to his public Facebook posts from January 6<sup>th</sup> (see Figures 1 and 2), MARTIN also used Facebook to describe his participation in the riot to his friends, including that he "stormed the capit[o]l broke the lines" and "made it."

***Facts Specific to This Application – Premises to Be Searched***

44. Records obtained from a subpoena to Google regarding e-mail address [martindustin289@gmail.com](mailto:martindustin289@gmail.com) (the e-mail address associated with MARTIN's Facebook account) identify the customer and billing address for the account as DUSTIN MARTIN at 3431 Red Cedar Court, Grove City, Ohio 43123.

45. MARTIN's gmail address was run through a set of location data obtained from a search warrant served on Google, which contains a list of devices estimated to be within the U.S. Capitol using GPS data and information about nearby Wi-Fi access points and Bluetooth beacons. This query did not return any mobile devices associated with MARTIN's gmail account.

46. A search of law enforcement records lists 3431 Red Cedar Court as MARTIN's registered address.

47. On April 25, 2023, FBI agents conducted surveillance at 3431 Red Cedar Court, and positively identified MARTIN leaving the residence.

48. I know, based on my training and experience, that people routinely re-wear clothing and accessories and store these items in their homes. Clothing and accessories consistent with those worn by MARTIN on January 6, 2021 constitute evidence of the commission of the offenses

discussed herein, in that MARTIN can be visually identified as the individual in the photos and videos discussed above, in part through the distinct attire and accessories worn that day, described further in Attachment B.

49. Your affiant also knows that hundreds of people have been arrested in connection to the riot that occurred at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. During searches of the majority of those people's homes, from early 2021 through present, in multiple jurisdictions, law enforcement has recovered clothing, paraphernalia, tools, and devices that were worn, used, or carried on January 6, 2021. Taking examples from the past year only, in late May 2022, the residence of a defendant in the Southern District of Texas was searched, and law enforcement found the blue sweatshirt, black backpack, hat, gator, and tactical vest that the defendant wore on January 6, 2021. In early June 2022, the home of a defendant in the District of Columbia was searched, and law enforcement found a motorcycle jacket that the wore at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. On June 29, 2022, the home and adjacent barn of a defendant in the District of Rhode Island was searched, and agents recovered two handheld radios consistent with the radio that the defendant was photographed holding in Washington, D.C. on January 6, 2021. On September 30, 2022, the residence of a defendant in the Western District of Pennsylvania was searched, and agents recovered a distinctive yellow mask that the defendant wore on January 6, 2021. On October 12, 2022, the homes of two suspected rioters were searched in the Western District of Washington. In one home, agents found a red "Make American Great Again" sweatshirt, a pair of black gloves, and a neck gaiter. In the other home, agents found a t-shirt with the words "In Trump we Trust" and neck gaiter. Both sets of clothing appeared to match the clothing worn by both individuals at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. On October 26,

2022, a search warrant was conducted in Burke, Virginia on a U.S. Capitol Riots subject. During the execution of the search warrant, multiple articles of clothing were located in the residence that the subject was seen wearing on January 6<sup>th</sup>. The subject's shirt, jacket, pants, and shoes were discovered in the residence. On February 1, 2023, the homes of two suspected rioters were searched in the Eastern District of Michigan. In one home, officers located clothing worn by the individual at the Capitol on January 6. In the other home, agents discovered both clothing as well as the stick/club this individual took into the Capitol as well as a protest sign he displayed that day.

50. In the last two months alone, a number of successful searches were conducted. On April 11, in the Western District of Texas, an American flag neck gaiter, black winter pants, and a fleece-lined leather winter hat worn by a suspected rioter on January 6 were recovered in his home. On April 12, in the District of New Mexico, officers searched the home of a suspected rioter and recovered the chrome-colored goggles he wore on January 6. On April 27, the homes of two suspected rioters were searched in the Middle District of Pennsylvania. In one home, officers recovered the blue Yamaha jacket the individual wore at the Capitol on January 6. In the other home, officers recovered a blue Trump hat the individual wore at the Capitol that day.

51. Based on the above, there is probable cause to believe that MARTIN can be found at the PREMISES described in Attachment A, and that PREMISES will contain fruits, evidence, information, contraband, or instrumentalities of a crime as described in Attachment B, including as stored on MARTIN's device(s) as described further below.

***Facts Specific to This Application – Device(s) to Be Searched***

52. Records obtained from Meta Platforms, Inc. (Facebook) via legal process show MARTIN sharing videos and photos taken from both outside and inside the U.S. Capitol on social media. The same is depicted in Figure 1, the anonymous tip the FBI received with MARTIN's Facebook post from inside the U.S. Capitol.

53. At various points on January 6, 2021, both outside and inside the Capitol, MARTIN (circled in red) is also seen holding what appears to be a smartphone (see Figures 8-10 below). In Figure 10, taken from Capitol security footage, MARTIN appears to be filming a confrontation between U.S. Capitol Police and rioters in the U.S. Capitol building.



Figure 8

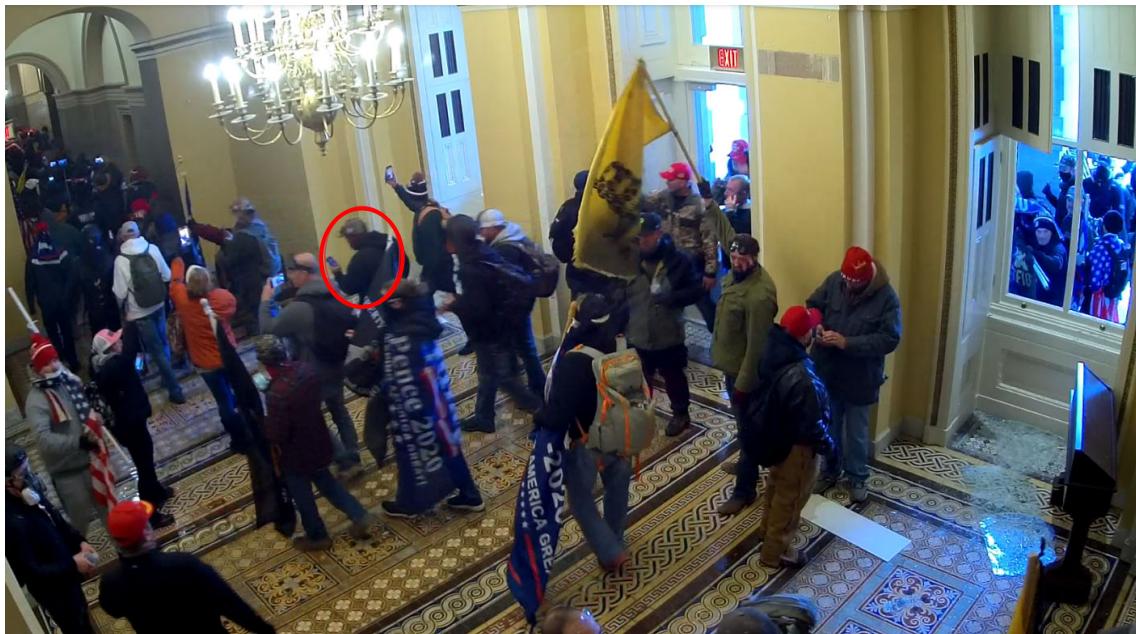


Figure 9



Figure 10

54. Based on my training and experience, I know that cell phones are expensive, and people routinely retain their cell phones for many months or years.

55. Moreover, in my training and experience, it is common for individuals to back up or preserve copies of digital media (such as photos and videos) across multiple devices to prevent loss. Indeed, some companies provide services that seamlessly sync data across devices, such as Apple devices and the Apple iCloud service. Based on that, there is reason to believe that evidence of the offense that originally resided on MARTIN's cell phone may also be saved to other digital devices within the PREMISES, including, if MARTIN has a new cell phone, to his current phone.

56. Investigators have reason to believe that the Device(s) are currently located at PREMISES because it is MARTIN's place of residence.

57. Based on my training and experience, and on conversations I have had with other law enforcement officers, I know that some individuals who participate in activities aimed at disrupting or interfering with governmental and/or law enforcement operations have been known to use anonymizing services and/or applications capable of encrypting communications to protect their identity and communications. By using such tools, in some cases, the only way to see the content of these conversations is on the electronic device that had been used to send or receive the communications.

58. The property to be searched includes laptop computers, mobile phones, and/or tablets owned, used, or controlled by Dustin Martin, including but not limited to a recent model smartphone, hereinafter the "Device(s)."

59. As described above, there is evidence that Subject had in his possession a digital device and used it to record events while engaged in unlawful activity at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. In addition, based on photos and videos of the offenses on that date, numerous persons committing the Target Offenses possessed digital devices that they used to record and post photos and videos of themselves and others committing those offenses. Further, based on the investigation, numerous persons committing the Target Offenses possessed digital devices to communicate with other individuals to plan their attendance at the gatherings, to coordinate with other participants at the gatherings, and to post on social media and digital forums about the gatherings. Therefore, there is probable cause to believe that evidence, fruits, instrumentalities or contraband can be found on the Device(s).

#### **TECHNICAL TERMS**

60. Based on my training and experience, and information acquired from other law enforcement officials with technical expertise, I know the terms described below have the following meanings or characteristics:

a. “Digital device,” as used herein, includes the following three terms and their respective definitions:

1) A “computer” means an electronic, magnetic, optical, or other high speed data processing device performing logical or storage functions, and includes any data storage facility or communications facility directly related to or operating in conjunction with such device. *See 18 U.S.C. § 1030(e)(1).* Computers are physical units of equipment that perform information processing using a binary system to represent information. Computers include, but are not limited to, desktop and laptop computers, smartphones, tablets,

smartwatches, and binary data processing units used in the operation of other products like automobiles.

2) “Digital storage media,” as used herein, means any information storage device in which information is preserved in binary form and includes electrical, optical, and magnetic digital storage devices. Examples of digital storage media include, but are not limited to, compact disks, digital versatile disks (“DVDs”), USB flash drives, flash memory cards, and internal and external hard drives.

3) “Computer hardware” means all equipment that can receive, capture, collect, analyze, create, display, convert, store, conceal, or transmit electronic, magnetic, or similar computer impulses or data. Computer hardware includes any data-processing devices (including, but not limited to, central processing units, internal and peripheral storage devices such as fixed disks, external hard drives, floppy disk drives and diskettes, and other memory storage devices); peripheral input/output devices (including, but not limited to, keyboards, printers, video display monitors, modems, routers, scanners, and related communications devices such as cables and connections), as well as any devices, mechanisms, or parts that can be used to restrict access to computer hardware (including, but not limited to, physical keys and locks).

b. “Wireless telephone” (or mobile telephone, or cellular telephone), a type of digital device, is a handheld wireless device used for voice and data communication at least in part through radio signals and also often through “wi-fi” networks. When communicating via radio signals, these telephones send signals through networks of transmitters/receivers, enabling communication with other wireless telephones, traditional “land line” telephones, computers, and other digital devices. A wireless telephone usually contains a “call log,” which records the

telephone number, date, and time of calls made to and from the phone. In addition to enabling voice communications, wireless telephones offer a broad range of applications and capabilities. These include, variously: storing names and phone numbers in electronic “address books”; sending, receiving, and storing text messages, e-mail, and other forms of messaging; taking, sending, receiving, and storing still photographs and video; storing and playing back audio files; storing dates, appointments, and other information on personal calendars; utilizing global positioning system (“GPS”) locating and tracking technology, and accessing and downloading information from the Internet.

c. A “tablet” is a mobile computer, typically larger than a wireless phone yet smaller than a notebook, that is primarily operated by touch-screen. Like wireless phones, tablets function as wireless communication devices and can be used to access the Internet or other wired or wireless devices through cellular networks, “wi-fi” networks, or otherwise. Tablets typically contain programs called applications (“apps”), which, like programs on both wireless phones, as described above, and personal computers, perform many different functions and save data associated with those functions.

d. A “GPS” navigation device, including certain wireless phones and tablets, uses the Global Positioning System (generally abbreviated “GPS”) to display its current location, and often retains records of its historical locations. Some GPS navigation devices can give a user driving or walking directions to another location, and may contain records of the addresses or locations involved in such historical navigation. The GPS consists of 24 NAVSTAR satellites orbiting the Earth. Each satellite contains an extremely accurate clock. Each satellite repeatedly transmits by radio a mathematical representation of the current time, combined with a special

sequence of numbers. These signals are sent by radio, using specifications that are publicly available. A GPS antenna on Earth can receive those signals. When a GPS antenna receives signals from at least four satellites, a computer connected to that antenna can mathematically calculate the antenna's latitude, longitude, and sometimes altitude with a high level of precision.

e. "Computer passwords and data security devices" means information or items designed to restrict access to or hide computer software, documentation, or data. Data security devices may consist of hardware, software, or other programming code. A password (a string of alpha-numeric characters) usually operates as a digital key to "unlock" particular data security devices. Data security hardware may include encryption devices, chips, and circuit boards. Data security software of digital code may include programming code that creates "test" keys or "hot" keys, which perform certain pre-set security functions when touched. Data security software or code may also encrypt, compress, hide, or "booby-trap" protected data to make it inaccessible or unusable, as well as reverse the process to restore it.

f. "Computer software" means digital information which can be interpreted by a computer and any of its related components to direct the way they work. Computer software is stored in electronic, magnetic, or other digital form. It commonly includes programs to run operating systems, applications, and utilities.

m. "Cache" means the text, image, and graphic files sent to and temporarily stored by a user's computer from a website accessed by the user in order to allow the user speedier access to and interaction with that website in the future.

p. "Encryption" is the process of encoding messages or information in such a way that eavesdroppers or hackers cannot read it but authorized parties can. In an encryption

scheme, the message or information, referred to as plaintext, is encrypted using an encryption algorithm, turning it into an unreadable ciphertext. This is usually done with the use of an encryption key, which specifies how the message is to be encoded. Any unintended party that can see the ciphertext should not be able to determine anything about the original message. An authorized party, however, is able to decode the ciphertext using a decryption algorithm that usually requires a secret decryption key, to which adversaries do not have access.

#### **COMPUTERS, ELECTRONIC/MAGNETIC STORAGE, AND FORENSIC ANALYSIS**

61. As described above and in Attachment B, this application seeks permission to search for evidence, fruits, contraband, instrumentalities, and information that might be found on the PREMISES, in whatever form they are found. One form in which such items might be found is data stored on one or more digital devices. Such devices are defined above and include any electronic system or device capable of storing or processing data in digital form, including central processing units; desktop computers, laptop computers, notebooks, and tablet computers; personal digital assistants; wireless communication devices, such as telephone paging devices, beepers, mobile telephones, and smart phones; digital cameras; peripheral input/output devices, such as keyboards, printers, scanners, plotters, monitors, and drives intended for removable media; related communications devices, such as modems, routers, cables, and connections; storage media, such as hard disk drives, floppy disks, USB flash drives, memory cards, optical disks, and magnetic tapes used to store digital data (excluding analog tapes such as VHS); and security devices. Thus, the warrant applied for would authorize the seizure of digital devices or, potentially, the copying of stored information, all under Rule 41(e)(2)(B). Based on my knowledge, training, and experience, as well as information related to me by agents and others

involved in this investigation and in the forensic examination of digital devices, I respectfully submit that, if digital devices are found on the PREMISES, there is probable cause to believe that the items described in Attachment B will be stored in the Device(s) for at least the following reasons:

- a. Individuals who engage in criminal activity, including trespassing and obstructing justice at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, use digital devices like the Device(s) to save and share video and photographic evidence of their illegal activity in order to, among other things, garner credibility from like-minded individuals. As previously noted, MARTIN admitted to law enforcement agents during his July 5, 2021 interview that he posted photos and videos of his activity at the U.S. Capitol on January 6 in order to, “ingratiate himself with individuals who would admire him for such an action.”
- b. Individuals who engage in the foregoing criminal activity, in the event that they change digital devices, will often “back up” or transfer files from their old digital devices to that of their new digital devices, so as not to lose data, including that described in the foregoing paragraph.
- c. Digital device files, or remnants of such files, can be recovered months or even many years after they have been downloaded onto the medium or device, deleted, or viewed via the Internet. Electronic files downloaded to a digital device can be stored for years at little or no cost. Even when such files have been deleted, they can be recovered months or years later using readily-available forensics tools. When a person “deletes” a file on a digital device such as a home computer, a smart phone, or a memory card, the data contained in the file does not actually disappear; rather, that data remains on the storage medium and within the device

unless and until it is overwritten by new data. Therefore, deleted files, or remnants of deleted files, may reside in free space or slack space – that is, in space on the digital device that is not allocated to an active file or that is unused after a file has been allocated to a set block of storage space – for long periods of time before they are overwritten. In addition, a digital device's operating system may also keep a record of deleted data in a “swap” or “recovery” file. Similarly, files that have been viewed via the Internet are automatically downloaded into a temporary Internet directory or “cache.” The browser typically maintains a fixed amount of electronic storage medium space devoted to these files, and the files are only overwritten as they are replaced with more recently viewed Internet pages. Thus, the ability to retrieve “residue” of an electronic file from a digital device depends less on when the file was downloaded or viewed than on a particular user's operating system, storage capacity, and computer, smart phone, or other digital device habits.

62. As further described in Attachment B, this application seeks permission to locate not only electronic evidence or information that might serve as direct evidence of the crimes described in this affidavit, but also for forensic electronic evidence or information that establishes how the digital device(s) were used, the purpose of their use, who used them (or did not), and when. Based on my knowledge, training, and experience, as well as information related to me by agents and others involved in this investigation and in the forensic examination of digital devices, I respectfully submit there is probable cause to believe that this forensic electronic evidence and information will be in any of the Device(s) at issue here because:

a. Although some of the records called for by this warrant might be found in the form of user-generated documents or records (such as word processing, picture, movie, or

texting files), digital devices can contain other forms of electronic evidence as well. In particular, records of how a digital device has been used, what it has been used for, who has used it, and who has been responsible for creating or maintaining records, documents, programs, applications, and materials contained on the digital device(s) are, as described further in the attachments, called for by this warrant. Those records will not always be found in digital data that is neatly segregable from the hard drive, flash drive, memory card, or other electronic storage media image as a whole. Digital data stored in the Device(s), not currently associated with any file, can provide evidence of a file that was once on the storage medium but has since been deleted or edited, or of a deleted portion of a file (such as a paragraph that has been deleted from a word processing file). Virtual memory paging systems can leave digital data on a hard drive that show what tasks and processes on a digital device were recently used. Web browsers, e-mail programs, and chat programs often store configuration data on a hard drive, flash drive, memory card, or memory chip that can reveal information such as online nicknames and passwords. Operating systems can record additional data, such as the attachment of peripherals, the attachment of USB flash storage devices, and the times a computer, smart phone, or other digital device was in use. Computer, smart phone, and other digital device file systems can record data about the dates files were created and the sequence in which they were created. This data can be evidence of a crime, indicate the identity of the user of the digital device, or point toward the existence of evidence in other locations. Recovery of this data requires specialized tools and a controlled laboratory environment, and also can require substantial time.

b. Forensic evidence on a digital device can also indicate who has used or controlled the device. This “user attribution” evidence is analogous to the search for “indicia of

occupancy" while executing a search warrant at a residence. For example, registry information, configuration files, user profiles, e-mail, e-mail address books, chats, instant messaging logs, photographs, the presence or absence of malware, and correspondence (and the data associated with the foregoing, such as file creation and last-accessed dates) may be evidence of who used or controlled the digital device at a relevant time, and potentially who did not.

c. A person with appropriate familiarity with how a digital device works can, after examining this forensic evidence in its proper context, draw conclusions about how such digital devices were used, the purpose of their use, who used them, and when.

d. The process of identifying the exact files, blocks, registry entries, logs, or other forms of forensic evidence on a digital device that are necessary to draw an accurate conclusion is a dynamic process. While it is possible to specify in advance the records to be sought, digital device evidence is not always data that can be merely reviewed by a review team and passed along to investigators. Whether data stored on digital devices is evidence may depend on other information stored on the devices and the application of knowledge about how the devices behave. Therefore, contextual information necessary to understand other evidence also falls within the scope of the warrant.

e. Further, in finding evidence of how a digital device was used, the purpose of its use, who used it, and when, sometimes it is necessary to establish that a particular thing is not present on the device. For example, the presence or absence of counter-forensic programs, anti-virus programs (and associated data), and malware may be relevant to establishing the user's intent and the identity of the user.

### **METHODS TO BE USED TO SEARCH DIGITAL DEVICES**

63. Based on my knowledge, training, and experience, as well as information related to me by agents and others involved in this investigation and in the forensic examination of digital devices, I know that:

a. Searching digital devices can be an extremely technical process, often requiring specific expertise, specialized equipment, and substantial amounts of time, in part because there are so many types of digital devices and software programs in use today. Digital devices – whether, for example, desktop computers, mobile devices, or portable storage devices – may be customized with a vast array of software applications, each generating a particular form of information or records and each often requiring unique forensic tools, techniques, and expertise. As a result, it may be necessary to consult with specially trained personnel who have specific expertise in the types of digital devices, operating systems, or software applications that are being searched, and to obtain specialized hardware and software solutions to meet the needs of a particular forensic analysis.

b. Digital data is particularly vulnerable to inadvertent or intentional modification or destruction. Searching digital devices can require the use of precise, scientific procedures that are designed to maintain the integrity of digital data and to recover “hidden,” erased, compressed, encrypted, or password-protected data. Recovery of “residue” of electronic files from digital devices also requires specialized tools and often substantial time. As a result, a controlled environment, such as a law enforcement laboratory or similar facility, is often essential to conducting a complete and accurate analysis of data stored on digital devices.

c. Further, as discussed above, evidence of how a digital device has been used, the purposes for which it has been used, and who has used it, may be reflected in the absence of particular data on a digital device. For example, to rebut a claim that the owner of a digital device was not responsible for a particular use because the device was being controlled remotely by malicious software, it may be necessary to show that malicious software that allows someone else to control the digital device remotely is not present on the digital device. Evidence of the absence of particular data or software on a digital device is not segregable from the digital device itself. Analysis of the digital device as a whole to demonstrate the absence of particular data or software requires specialized tools and a controlled laboratory environment, and can require substantial time.

d. Digital device users can attempt to conceal data within digital devices through a number of methods, including the use of innocuous or misleading filenames and extensions. For example, files with the extension “.jpg” often are image files; however, a user can easily change the extension to “.txt” to conceal the image and make it appear as though the file contains text. Digital device users can also attempt to conceal data by using encryption, which means that a password or device, such as a “dongle” or “keycard,” is necessary to decrypt the data into readable form. Digital device users may encode communications or files, including substituting innocuous terms for incriminating terms or deliberately misspelling words, thereby thwarting “keyword” search techniques and necessitating continuous modification of keyword terms. Moreover, certain file formats, like portable document format (“PDF”), do not lend themselves to keyword searches. Some applications for computers, smart phones, and other digital devices, do not store data as searchable text; rather, the data is saved in a proprietary non-

text format. Documents printed by a computer, even if the document was never saved to the hard drive, are recoverable by forensic examiners but not discoverable by keyword searches because the printed document is stored by the computer as a graphic image and not as text. In addition, digital device users can conceal data within another seemingly unrelated and innocuous file in a process called “steganography.” For example, by using steganography, a digital device user can conceal text in an image file that cannot be viewed when the image file is opened. Digital devices may also contain “booby traps” that destroy or alter data if certain procedures are not scrupulously followed. A substantial amount of time is necessary to extract and sort through data that is concealed, encrypted, or subject to booby traps, to determine whether it is evidence, contraband, or instrumentalities of a crime.

e. Analyzing the contents of mobile devices, including tablets, can be very labor intensive and also requires special technical skills, equipment, and software. The large, and ever increasing, number and variety of available mobile device applications generate unique forms of data, in different formats, and user information, all of which present formidable and sometimes novel forensic challenges to investigators that cannot be anticipated before examination of the device. Additionally, most smart phones and other mobile devices require passwords for access. For example, even older iPhone 4 models, running IOS 7, deployed a type of sophisticated encryption known as “AES-256 encryption” to secure and encrypt the operating system and application data, which could only be bypassed with a numeric passcode. Newer cell phones employ equally sophisticated encryption along with alpha-numeric passcodes, rendering most smart phones inaccessible without highly sophisticated forensic tools and techniques, or assistance from the phone manufacturer. Mobile devices used by individuals engaged in

criminal activity are often further protected and encrypted by one or more third party applications, of which there are many. For example, one such mobile application, “Hide It Pro,” disguises itself as an audio application, allows users to hide pictures and documents, and offers the same sophisticated AES-256 encryption for all data stored within the database in the mobile device.

f. Based on all of the foregoing, I respectfully submit that searching any digital device for the information, records, or evidence pursuant to this warrant may require a wide array of electronic data analysis techniques and may take weeks or months to complete. Any pre-defined search protocol would only inevitably result in over- or under-inclusive searches, and misdirected time and effort, as forensic examiners encounter technological and user-created challenges, content, and software applications that cannot be anticipated in advance of the forensic examination of the devices. In light of these difficulties, your affiant requests permission to use whatever data analysis techniques reasonably appear to be necessary to locate and retrieve digital information, records, or evidence within the scope of this warrant.

64. The volume of data stored on many digital devices will typically be so large that it will be extremely impractical to search for data during the physical search of the premises.

a. Therefore, in searching for information, records, or evidence, further described in Attachment B, law enforcement personnel executing this search warrant will employ the following procedures:

1. Upon securing the PREMISES, law enforcement personnel will, consistent with Rule 41(e)(2)(B) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, seize any digital devices (that is, the Device(s)), within the scope of this warrant as defined above, deemed

capable of containing the information, records, or evidence described in Attachment B and transport these items to an appropriate law enforcement laboratory or similar facility for review. For all the reasons described above, it would not be feasible to conduct a complete, safe, and appropriate search of any such digital devices at the PREMISES. The digital devices, and/or any digital images thereof created by law enforcement sometimes with the aid of a technical expert, in an appropriate setting, in aid of the examination and review, will be examined and reviewed in order to extract and seize the information, records, or evidence described in Attachment B.

2. The analysis of the contents of the digital devices may entail any or all of various forensic techniques as circumstances warrant. Such techniques may include, but shall not be limited to, surveying various file “directories” and the individual files they contain (analogous to looking at the outside of a file cabinet for the markings it contains and opening a drawer believed to contain pertinent files); conducting a file-by-file review by “opening,” reviewing, or reading the images or first few “pages” of such files in order to determine their precise contents; “scanning” storage areas to discover and possibly recover recently deleted data; scanning storage areas for deliberately hidden files; and performing electronic “keyword” searches through all electronic storage areas to determine whether occurrences of language contained in such storage areas exist that are related to the subject matter of the investigation.

3. In searching the digital devices, the forensic examiners may examine as much of the contents of the digital devices as deemed necessary to make a determination as to whether the contents fall within the items to be seized as set forth in Attachment B. In addition, the forensic examiners may search for and attempt to recover “deleted,” “hidden,” or encrypted data to determine whether the contents fall within the items to

be seized as described in Attachment B. Any search techniques or protocols used in searching the contents of the seized digital devices will be specifically chosen to identify the specific items to be seized under this warrant.

**BIOMETRIC ACCESS TO DEVICE(S)**

65. This warrant permits law enforcement agents to obtain from the person of Dustin Martin (but not any other individuals present at the PREMISES at the time of execution of the warrant) the compelled display of any physical biometric characteristics (such as fingerprint/thumbprint or facial characteristics) necessary to unlock any Device(s) requiring such biometric access subject to seizure pursuant to this warrant for which law enforcement has reasonable suspicion that the aforementioned person(s)' physical biometric characteristics will unlock the Device(s). The grounds for this request are as follows:

66. I know from my training and experience, as well as from information found in publicly available materials published by device manufacturers, that many electronic devices, particularly newer mobile devices and laptops, offer their users the ability to unlock the device through biometric features in lieu of a numeric or alphanumeric passcode or password. These biometric features include fingerprint scanners, facial recognition features, and iris recognition features. Some devices offer a combination of these biometric features, and the user of such devices can select which features they would like to utilize.

67. If a device is equipped with a fingerprint scanner, a user may enable the ability to unlock the device through his or her fingerprints. For example, Apple offers a feature called "Touch ID," which allows a user to register up to five fingerprints that can unlock a device. Once a fingerprint is registered, a user can unlock the device by pressing the relevant

finger to the device’s Touch ID sensor, which is found in the round button (often referred to as the “home” button) located at the bottom center of the front of the device. The fingerprint sensors found on devices produced by other manufacturers have different names but operate similarly to Touch ID.

68. If a device is equipped with a facial-recognition feature, a user may enable the ability to unlock the device through his or her face. For example, this feature is available on certain Android devices and is called “Trusted Face.” During the Trusted Face registration process, the user holds the device in front of his or her face. The device’s front-facing camera then analyzes and records data based on the user’s facial characteristics. The device can then be unlocked if the front-facing camera detects a face with characteristics that match those of the registered face. Facial recognition features found on devices produced by other manufacturers (such as Apple’s “Face ID”) have different names but operate similarly to Trusted Face.

69. If a device is equipped with an iris-recognition feature, a user may enable the ability to unlock the device with his or her irises. For example, on certain Microsoft devices, this feature is called “Windows Hello.” During the Windows Hello registration, a user registers his or her irises by holding the device in front of his or her face. The device then directs an infrared light toward the user’s face and activates an infrared-sensitive camera to record data based on patterns within the user’s irises. The device can then be unlocked if the infrared-sensitive camera detects the registered irises. Iris-recognition features found on devices produced by other manufacturers have different names but operate similarly to Windows Hello.

70. In my training and experience, users of electronic devices often enable the aforementioned biometric features because they are considered to be a more convenient way to

unlock a device than by entering a numeric or alphanumeric passcode or password. Moreover, in some instances, biometric features are considered to be a more secure way to protect a device's contents. This is particularly true when the users of a device are engaged in criminal activities and thus have a heightened concern about securing the contents of a device.

71. As discussed in this Affidavit, your Affiant has reason to believe that one or more digital devices, the Device(s), will be found during the search. The passcode or password that would unlock the Device(s) subject to search under this warrant currently is not known to law enforcement. Thus, law enforcement personnel may not otherwise be able to access the data contained within the Device(s), making the use of biometric features necessary to the execution of the search authorized by this warrant.

72. I also know from my training and experience, as well as from information found in publicly available materials including those published by device manufacturers, that biometric features will not unlock a device in some circumstances even if such features are enabled. This can occur when a device has been restarted, inactive, or has not been unlocked for a certain period of time. For example, Apple devices cannot be unlocked using Touch ID when: (1) more than 48 hours has elapsed since the device was last unlocked; or, (2) when the device has not been unlocked using a fingerprint for 8 hours and the passcode or password has not been entered in the last 6 days. Similarly, certain Android devices cannot be unlocked with Trusted Face if the device has remained inactive for four hours. Biometric features from other brands carry similar restrictions. Thus, in the event law enforcement personnel encounter a locked device equipped with biometric features, the opportunity to unlock the device through a biometric feature may exist for only a short time.

73. Due to the foregoing, if law enforcement personnel encounter any Device(s) that are subject to seizure pursuant to this warrant and may be unlocked using one of the aforementioned biometric features, this warrant permits law enforcement personnel to obtain from the aforementioned person(s) the display of any physical biometric characteristics (such as fingerprint/thumbprint or facial characteristics) necessary to unlock any Device(s), including to (1) press or swipe the fingers (including thumbs) of the aforementioned person(s) to the fingerprint scanner of the Device(s) found at the PREMISES; (2) hold the Device(s) found at the PREMISES in front of the face of the aforementioned person(s) to activate the facial recognition feature; and/or (3) hold the Device(s) found at the PREMISES in front of the face of the aforementioned person(s) to activate the iris recognition feature, for the purpose of attempting to unlock the Device(s) in order to search the contents as authorized by this warrant.

74. The proposed warrant does not authorize law enforcement to require that the aforementioned person(s) state or otherwise provide the password, or identify specific biometric characteristics (including the unique finger(s) or other physical features) that may be used to unlock or access the Device(s). Nor does the proposed warrant authorize law enforcement to use the fact that the warrant allows law enforcement to obtain the display of any biometric characteristics to compel the aforementioned person(s) to state or otherwise provide that information. However, the voluntary disclosure of such information by the aforementioned person(s) would be permitted under the proposed warrant. To avoid confusion on that point, if agents in executing the warrant ask any of the aforementioned person(s) for the password to any Device(s), or to identify which biometric characteristic (including the unique finger(s) or other physical features) unlocks any Device(s), the agents will not state or otherwise imply that the

warrant requires the person to provide such information, and will make clear that providing any such information is voluntary and that the person is free to refuse the request.

**CONCLUSION**

75. I submit that this affidavit supports probable cause for a warrant to search the PREMISES described in Attachment A and to seize the items described in Attachment B.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Andrew J. Gafford**  
Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 6/20/2023

  
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UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE